

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 190711

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COMMANDANT (G-000-4/74) US COAST GUARD

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ACTION SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC FROM AMEMB
KINGSTON

QUOTE E9 11652: DECONTROL AUGUST 27, 1974 CHP CAMPBELL, AIDAFFOFF

SUBJECT PUBLIC STATEMENT ON USG NARCOTICS RELATED
ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA

1. HERewith A STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
TO BE USED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
FROM PRESS AND OTHERS ON USG AND GOJ NARCOTICS RELATED ACT-
IVITIES. TEXT OF STATEMENT HAS BEEN SEEN AND CLEARED BY
GOJ. REQUEST STATEMENT BE CLEARED BY APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA, THE
USGOVERNMENT HAS BEEN COOPERATING IN A SPECIAL, JOINT
TASK FORCE EFFORT DIRECTED AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND
SMUGGLING BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES AND COMMERCIAL
MARIHUANA PRODUCTION IN JAMAICA. U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THIS
OPERATION WAS APPROVED BY THE DEPT OF STATE AND THE U.S.
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) AND REMAINS UNDER
THE CONTINUING REVIEW OF THE LATIN AMERICAN INTER-AGENCY
NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DEPT OF STATE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 190711

3. THE OPERATION INVOLVES THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL
FROM THE DEA TO ASSIST THE GOVT OF JAMAICA IN THIS EFFORT.
ALL USG TASK FORCE PERSONNEL ARE UNDER THE OVERALL DIRECTION
OF THE US AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA

4. FOR SOME TIME THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA HAS BEEN MAKING AN EXTENSIVE EFFORT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTION OF "GANGA" (MARIHUANA) AND SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS FROM OR THROUGH JAMAICA TO THE UNITED STATES. JAMAICA HAD BECOME A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF MARIHUANA TO THE US SURPASSED ONLY BY MEXICO, WITH A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF JAMAICAN MARIHUANA FINDING ITS WAY TO THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF THE SMUGGLING OF COCAINE AND HEROIN FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO AND THROUGH JAMAICA AND TO THE UNITED STATES. THE JAMAICAN GOVT BELIEVES THAT ORGANIZED CRIME ELEMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE MAKING INROADS IN JAMAICA AND ARE COMBING WITH THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC ELEMENTS TO CREATE CORRUPTION AND A GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER IN JAMAICA

5. A SERIES OF GUN CRIMES CULMINATING IN THE MURDERS OF SEVERAL PROMINENT JAMAICANS IN FEBRUARY MOVED THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME. A NEW MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE WITH ELI MATALON AS MINISTER WAS ESTABLISHED, PLACING ALL ELEMENTS OF THE JAMAICAN CONSTABULARY FORCE AND THE JAMAICAN DEFENSE FORCE UNDER THE MINISTER'S CONTROL. SINCE IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, THE JAMAICAN DRUG LAW WAS AMENDED TO CLOSE THE LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW ON TRAFFICKING IN MARIHUANA AND TO PROVIDE SHARP INCREASES IN PENALTIES FOR HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING. IN CLOSING THE DEBATE ON THE REVISED DRUG ACT, MINISTER MATALON SAID, "THE EXTENT OF GANJA EXPORT WAS DESTROYING THE COUNTRY, LEADING AS IT DID TO HARD DRUGS AND TO GUNS."

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA, HOWEVER, LACKED SOME OF THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO CARRY OUT AN EXTENSIVE OPERATION OF REDUCING THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS BEING SMUGGLES BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES

7. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA HAS TURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US DRUG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 190711

ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION MET WITH MINISTER MATALON TO DISCUSS THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE THAT THE USG COULD PROVIDE.

8. THROUGH THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, BOTH TECHNICAL AND MATERIEL ASSISTANCE IS BEING PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA. FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR WORLDWIDE NARCOTICS CONTROL UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND FROM DEA ARE BEING USED TO FINANCE USG PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM. ON A GRANT BASIS, THE US HAS PROVIDED JAMAICA WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND INVESTIGATIVE AIDS AND HAS ALLOTTED A TOTAL OF \$747,000 FOR USE IN THIS OPERATION AND THEREAFTER IN ONGOING NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS.

LARGER ITEMS, SUCH AS HELICOPTERS, FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ARE BEING ASSIGNED TO JAMAICA ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO SUPPORT JAMAICA AIR AND SEA SURVEILLANCE AND INTERDICTION EFFORTS. MOST OF THE MATERIEL WILL BE RETURNED TO THE US UPON COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. THE US COAST GUARD IS ALSO COOPERATING WITH JAMAICA IN THE SURVEILLANCE AND INTERDICTION PROGRAM.

9. THE GOVT OF JAMAICA IS DEDICATING HELICOPTERS, FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, ARMORED CARS, COAST GUARD CUTTERS AND PATROL VESSELS, AS WELL AS PERSONNEL FROM THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE AND JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE TO THIS OPERATION. SOME 190 OFFICERS AND MEN FROM THE JCF AND JDF HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO THE PROGRAM. ALL OF THE FUEL MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS OF THE COMBINED OPERATIONS ARE TO BE BORNE BY THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NECESSARY ACTION TO EXTEND CAPABILITY OF JDF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS AND PURCHASING OTHER TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN THE SURVEILLANCE AND INTERDICTION PROGRAM

10. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 25 DEA PERSONNEL WILL BE ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT AT VARIOUS TIMES TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA IN THIS OPERATION. DEA PERSONNEL ARE PHASED IN AND OUT OF JAMAICA DEPENDING ON THEIR SPECIALTIES.

11. THE INITIAL RESULTS OF THIS TASK FORCE OPERATION HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 STATE 190711

PROMISING. END TEXT.

12. BEGIN QUESTIONS

Q. ARE US NARCOTICS AGENTS PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA IN A DRUG ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN?

A. YES. IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA'S URGENT REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, A JOINT US-JAMAICAN TASK FORCE OPERATION HAS BEEN INITIATED WITH THE THREE FOLD OBJECTIVES OF (A) INTERCEPTING VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS SMUGGLING FROM JAMAICA TO THE US; (B) BREAKING UP TRAFFICKING RINGS, AND (C) REDUCING MARIHUANA CULTIVATION. USG PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND DEA AND IS UNDER THE CONTINUING REVIEW OF THE LATIN AMERICAN INTER-AGENCY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Q. WHAT IMPORTANCE ACHFEJAKA AS A SOURCE FOR U.S. MARIJUANA?

A. THE DEA ESTIMATES THAT 1,000 TONS OF HIGH QUALITY JAMAICAN MARIJUANA ARE SMUGGLED TO THE U.S. FROM JAMAICA EACH YEAR, MAKING THAT COUNTRY THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE FOR MARIJUANA ENTERING THE U.S. AFTER MEXICO. A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF MARIJUANA FOUND ON THE EAST COAST OF THE U.S. IS OF JAMAICAN ORIGIN. THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT JAMAICA IS BECOMING A TRANSIT POINT FROM TRAFFICKING IN HARD DRUGS TO THE U.S. A RECENT STUDY SHOWS THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN PRINCIPAL MARIJUANA GROWING AREAS ON THE ISLAND TOTALING MORE THAN 1,000 SQUARE MILES. MUCH OF THE PRIMARY GROWING AREAS IS ALMOST INACCESSIBLE TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

Q. WHAT COMMODITY SUPPORT IS THE U.S. PROVIDING TO THE GOJ FOR THIS EFFORT?

A. THE U.S. HAS ASSIGNED FOUR HELICOPTERS, THREE FIXED WING AIRCRAFT AND A MOBILE RADAR SYSTEM ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO JAMAICA TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT. IN ADDITION, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT,

AND INVESTIGATIVE AIDS, SUCH AS SMALL BOAT RADARS, NIGHT VISION DEVICES, CAMERAS, BINOCULARS, AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDERS AND A SURVEILLANCE RADAR STATION HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE GOJ FOR USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 190711

IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

Q. WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT ARE THE JAMAICANS ASSIGNING TO THIS TASK FORCE?

A. THE JAMAICANS ARE CONTRIBUTING HELICOPTERS, LIGHT FIXED WING WING AIRCRAFT, AND PATROL VESSELS TO THIS EFFORT, AS WELL AS PERSONNEL

FROM THE JDF AND JCF.

Q. ARE USG PERSONNEL ACTUALLY PARTICIPATING IN THIS OPERATION?

A. YES. PERSONNEL FROM THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION ARE BEING ASSIGNED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO SUPPORT AND TRAIN JAMAICAN PERSONNEL IN THIS OPERATION. ALL DEA PERSONNEL ON DUTY IN JAMAICA ARE SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTION

OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA. THE ACTIVITIES OF ALL DEA PERSONNEL ARE COORDINATED ON A DAILY BASIS WITH APPROPRIATE JAMAICAN OFFICIALS. THE TYPE OF PERSONNEL BEING ASSIGNED INCLUDE RADAR AND RADIO TECHNICIANS, PILOTS, AGENT LIAISON ADVISERS WITH GOJ FORCES, INVESTIGATIVE AGENTS, AND CLERICAL PERSONNEL. DEA PERSONNEL ARE PHASED IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY DEPENDING ON THEIR SPECIALIZATION AND THE OVERALL REQUIREMENTS.

Q. HAS THE USG PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE GOJ IN THE POSSIBLE
USE OF HERBICIDES OT ERADICATE MARIJAUAN FIELDS IN JAMAICA?

A. YES. A. US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SCIENTIST VISITED
JAMAICA AT THE REQUEST OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT TO
DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE COMMERCIAL WEED KILLER OF THOSE
ALREADY IN USE ON THE ISLAND THAT COULD BE USD IN AN ERADITION
PROGRAM. AFTER AN INTENSIVE TESTING PERIOD, THE USDA SCIENTIST
RECOMMENDED SEVERAL WEED KILLERS THAT WOULD BE
SUITABLE AND STILL NOT HAVE LONG LASTING EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT IS EMPLOYING JDF HELICOPTERS AND GROUND
PERSONNEL IN THIS PHASE OF THE OPERATION.

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PAGE 06 STATE 190711

Q. ARE US MILITARY PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN ANY PHASE OF THE
OPERATION?

A. NO. THE COAST GUARD IS PARTICIPATING IN RADAR DETECTION AND
INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE JAMAICAN OPERATION.

FYI: SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT MORE DETAILED AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS
WILL BE ASKED, WE PLAN TO REFER THESE QUESTIONS TO APPROPRIATE GOJ
OFFICIALS FOR REPLY.

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